



a publication of the  
Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Archives Conference (MARAC)

# ●●● the mid-atlantic archivist

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Three hundred and eight years after a small band of Connecticut Puritans established the town of Newark, Nova Caesaria, a somewhat less puritanical group of archivists will converge on the city for the fall meeting of MARAC. More specifically, this band of MARAC members will assemble at the Gateway Downtowner Motor Inn on November 1 and 2, 1974. The Gateway Downtowner is located at Raymond Boulevard and McCarter Highway and is connected with the Penn Central Railroad Station by means of a covered walkway. The hotel provides free transportation from Newark International Airport. Room rates are \$12.50 double occupancy and \$20.00 single occupancy. Free parking is available for registered guests of the hotel.

This fall's program consists of approximately thirty sessions, including workshops on finding aids and the care and preservation of manuscripts and archives; special sessions on oral history, moving image and machine readable records; and a panel discussion on the subject of role definition in the archival profession. In addition there will be luncheon programs on both days. One of these programs will be devoted to the archives of the Thomas A. Edison National Historic Site in nearby West Orange. The cost for each luncheon is \$6.00.

Friday evening will be highlighted by a business meeting and cocktail party at the newly-renovated headquarters of the New Jersey Historical Society. This will be followed by an exciting midnight walking tour of historic Newark. Here is a truly unique opportunity to see one of New Jersey's oldest communities in the still of the night. Some MARAC members may also want to visit the Edison Historic Site and Morristown National Park, the site of two American encampments during the Revolution. For those who wish to visit New York City, PATH trains can transport you from Penn Station, Newark to mid-Manhattan in approximately 20 minutes for a mere 30 cents. To reserve your place for this meeting please return registration form and hotel card no later than October 15.★



Autumn in Newark



The mid-atlantic archivist is an occasional publication of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC). MARAC membership includes all interested

individuals who live and work in the seven states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. MARAC seeks to promote the professional welfare of its members, cooperates with and exchanges information among individuals interested in the pre-

servation and use of archival research and methodology, provides a forum for matters of common concern, is a clearinghouse for and an active participant in joint ventures and cooperative projects, and cooperates with other organizations having similar objectives. Individual membership dues are \$3.00 per annum. Membership is not open to institutions, but institutions may purchase subscriptions to the mid-atlantic archivist for \$3.00 per annum. Write: Mary Boccaccio, Treasurer, MARAC, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742. Newsletter correspondence should be addressed as follows:

Donald F. Harrison (Don)  
General Services  
Administration (NNPD)  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Edmund Berkeley Jr. (Ned)  
Curator of Manuscripts  
UVA Library  
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

Julie Marsteller  
1060 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10028

Paul Perkus  
City University of  
New York  
535 East 80th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10021

Abby Levine  
Hunt Institute for  
Botanical Documentation  
Carnegie-Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

Elsie Freeman Freivogel, National Archives  
Mary Boccaccio, University of Maryland

This issue of the newsletter was edited by Mary Boccaccio.

Items submitted to m-a-a should be single spaced, no indentation, in columns 4½" wide, written on pica typewriter. Double space between paragraphs.



#### Amendment to 4F, Bylaws

Removal of steering committee members due to absence.

Any steering committee member who fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings without a reasonable excuse shall automatically be removed from office.

For consideration in November.

#### Job Openings

Ford Foundation. Manager of Records Services. Supervision of 36 staff members. For further information call:

Ernestine Thrash  
212-573-5277  
New York City

The Bronx County Historical Society has administrative function of the Bronx County Archives.

Recently we have promulgated a plan that entails the cataloguing, filing and micro-filming of 6000 square feet of this archival material; the wealth of the heritage and development of the Borough of The Bronx and the City of New York.

For further information please contact:

Gary D. Hermalyn  
Executive Director  
Museum of Bronx History  
3266 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York, 10467  
Telephone (212) 881-8900

The Society of Southwest Archivists notes the following publications in the first issue of its newsletter:

The Archives and Special Collections at Texas A & M has recently issued three publications. First is the Descriptive Guide to the Holdings of the University Archives and Manuscript Collections, Texas A & M University, by Dr. Charles R. Schultz. Of interest to Civil War historians is The Civil War Letters of George W. and Martha F. Ingram, 1861-1865, edited by Henry L. Ingram with an introduction by Charles R. Schultz. The third publication is Archive Director Schultz' Inventory of the Timothy M. Stinnett Papers, 1933-1973.

When depositories list their collections in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC), the Library of Congress provides four sets of catalog cards, free, to the depository.



## MARAC Business Meeting

Charlottesville, April 26, 1974

Mary Boccaccio gave a financial report and a breakdown of newsletter expenses. 1974 expenses as of March 30 includes:

Printing	\$160.79
Typing	120.00
Mailing	14.20
Total	\$294.99

Marac is now a tax-free educational organization under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The possibility of getting a mailing permit to centralize mailing and reduce cost was brought up and returned to the Committee for discussion.

Mike Plunkett introduced the fall program for discussion. The Newark meeting November 1st-2nd will be a combined program emphasizing local resources. The New Jersey Historical Society will host the business meeting. The Spring 1975 meeting is planned for Annapolis and the local arrangements group is working with Historic Annapolis.

Mike explained the procedure for the Nominating Committee to put together a ballot for the election of 8 Steering Committee members. Two volunteers from the retiring half of the Steering Committee are Pat Williams and William Ray. Nominated from the floor were Maygene Daniels - NARS, Adele Lerner - New York Hospital and Elizabeth Moyne - Delaware Hall of Records. Ned Berkeley moved that nominations be closed and rules suspended to vote on three candidates. This was seconded and the candidates were accepted by acclamation. The bylaws were read and the backlog of elections were explained. This nominating committee elects two groups: 8 State people now and 8 at large people in the fall.

Don Harrison introduced discussion of the newsletter. The membership voted against printing the proceedings of the Charlottesville meeting in the newsletter. Don announced his resignation after the next issue so that he can finish his dissertation. The newsletter is looking for an editor and contributors. Candidates should contact Don. Doug Tanner introduced a vote of confidence to reaffirm support to Don and the staff.

Elsie Freivogal introduced the Society of American Archivists and urged Marac members to join. She introduced the following resolution on the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections urging Marac members to report their collections:

"Resolved, that the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, with the Society of American Archivists, recognizes the importance of the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections as the single central source of information on the location and content of manuscript collections in the United States. We note with regret, however, that fewer than 900 repositories of a possible 1350 have actually reported collections to NUCMC since its creation in 1958, leaving an estimated 10,000 collections to be reported. We therefore urge

staffs of institutions within MARAC who have not already done so to begin to report collections as soon as possible, and to seek whatever aid from the staff of NUCMC will facilitate this reporting."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

April 27th, 1974

A meeting was opened to introduce a resolution concerning Mary Walton Livingston. The resolution, printed in another section of the newsletter was accepted by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned.



## Archives of American Sin Conceived

A significant event occurred in the annals of Ohio archivism recently when a wealthy patron of the arts, G. W. Crossroch Ace, endowed the Archives of American Sin and established its permanent headquarters in Purity, Ohio. Mr. Ace, an elderly recluse, said he made the move to collect documentation which would allow scholars from around the world to better study why America is in such a rapid state of moral decay.

The archives is located in a large remodeled mansion in downtown Purity. A staff of three has been hired headed by director Dr. Rosemary P. Knight, formerly of the Stanford Institution of War, Revolution, and Piece. The archives is now actively collecting materials across the country. Dr. Knight explains that their acquisitions criterion "includes a traditional definition of sin - corruption, sex, violence, gambling, drinking, drug addiction, atheism, etc. By collecting the materials the normal archives do not solicit, the sin archives can help show what America is really like and how much the country needs a moral reexamination."

The Archives of American Sin is collecting every type of research material. Dr. Knight invites all SOA members to visit the new archives when they are in Purity or to write for more information to Dr. Rosemary P. Knight, Archives of American Sin, 816 East Main Street, Purity, Ohio 43806.

From the Newsletter of the Society of Ohio Archivists



## CENTRAL OR LOCAL CONTROL

## THE CASE FOR AN ARCHIVAL PARTNERSHIP

James B. Rhoads\*

A few years ago, one of my colleagues, Oliver Holmes, published an article in the American Archivist with the somewhat ungainly title: "Archival Arrangement-Five Different Operations at Five Different Levels." The thrust of the article is that the archivist does not function at one level alone when dealing with records, but has a variety of ways of approaching the arrangement of his materials. That title occurred to me when I thought of talking to you tonight about archival organizations, because I have long been aware that in the profession we all operate at different levels at different times. Some of the staff at the National Archives is active in the committees and offices of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and also maintains an active participation in the Society of American Archivists. I am fortunate enough to have recently been elected Vice President of the SAA while at the same time holding the position of Vice President for the Western Hemisphere in the International Council on Archives. At least one person whom I know, Frank Evans of the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, is active at all three levels: regional, national, and international.

One would presume that there is a certain degree of conflict between these three levels of archival professionalism. There have been a number of discussions, both verbal and in print, about the competition between local and national archival professional activity. I do not believe that this is the case, and would like to state why.

The formation of regional organizations of archivists is a recent development. The amount of research in original source material is growing. More archives are being established, and the number of archivists is increasing. At the same time, and due to the same reasons, the Society of American Archivists is growing. It is no longer exclusively the small, sociable, informal group that it was a number of years ago when its membership was 200 or 300. In those days the same people met year after year, served on the same committees, and recognized each other by first name. In contrast, membership has now increased to a point where larger facilities are required to accommodate the annual meeting. Modern convention centers are located in expensive metropolitan areas, and the cost of attending the annual meeting has risen accordingly, thus becoming prohibitive for many not subsidized to attend by their institutions. Such subsidy often accompanies the kind of position that one attains with seniority, although ironically it is quite often only the senior people who can afford to attend a meeting even if not subsidized.

\* Dr. Rhoads is the Archivist of the United States. He read this paper at a meeting of the Society of Georgia Archivists on October 18, 1973.

It is not surprising, therefore, that younger archivists often do not get to the annual meeting unless it is held in their community and they can sneak under the tent. Because they do not attend the society meetings, they cannot serve on committees effectively, their names and faces do not become familiar to their professional counterparts, and when it is time to nominate and elect officers their names do not appear on the ballot. It is not long before they feel alienated, left out, non-participants in their own profession. It is also not long before they feel that the society is run by a self-perpetuating oligarchy that is out of touch with the real problems of archivists. Discussion at the annual meetings becomes more esoteric and political, less practical and helpful in solving everyday problems or transmitting basic archival fundamentals.

The younger archivist feels frustrated and ignored to the point where he might decide to become a librarian or museum curator, or open a pornographic book store. At that point we, as archivists, lose him.

But now it is not necessary for all of that to happen. Regional archival associations have been established, not as competitors to the national organization, but as necessary adjuncts to it. The necessity for them has risen from the unwieldy size of the national organization, which renders it sometimes irrelevant to the practical needs of the practicing archivist. The large number of people involved in the national society suggest a diversity of interests. Diversity suggests compromise on issues so that all views might be entertained. And compromise suggests a trend towards irrelevancy. Meeting for only three days, just once a year, the national society cannot serve all its members if it concentrates on only one or two questions. And the committees, which are supposed to be the bodies that meet to attack and solve specific problems, find it difficult to meet and effectively propose, study, and implement programs. Committee members may be scattered from Boston to Austin, and if communication is difficult, consensus can be impossible.

But put the regional association of archivists in the picture and see what happens. Familiarity, proximity, and size are three important advantages. Communication between members is improved. A one-day meeting at a central location in the region can be attended by most members without the expense of an overnight stay. The regional group is small enough to permit lengthy, informed, and concentrated discussion on particular problems. In several important ways, therefore, the regional archival groups are today what the national group was thirty years ago.

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One should not imply, however, that the two are, ipso facto, incompatible. Certainly there are things attainable by the national group that the regional associations cannot accomplish. It can set professional standards; it can raise money for profession-wide programs, as in the areas of paper preservation or data archives techniques. The national society can bring together archivists who are geographically diverse, but who represent similar special areas, such as cartographic, archives, audiovisual archives, data archives, and others, each of which may have only two or three representatives in any given region.

The regional associations, on the other hand, can make major contributions to the entire profession, and indeed, they can contribute to the growth and health of the national society. Those of us who are regularly trying to fill key archival positions throughout the country with people of appropriate talent recognize the value of grass roots organizations. If we limit our talent search to the attendees at the annual meeting of the SAA, or to those with whom we have become acquainted through participation in the activities of the national society, we are undoubtedly overlooking a vast reservoir of skills and capabilities--some of which are still latent--that reside in the individuals who are not yet in a position to make themselves known on the national scene. It is very difficult to recognize such individuals when archivists are spread so thinly over the country.

The regional archival association, however, provides a mechanism for such talent to surface. Without big institutional support or personal expenditures, an archivist can participate in regional activities with all that entails--delivering professional papers, serving on committees, contributing to publications, assuming roles of coordination and leadership, and expressing views that may be innovative or just substantially professional. Through such activities it is not difficult for a talented person to become a rather large frog in a small to medium-sized pond, and if the archivist cum frog follows natural instincts, he will soon be looking for a larger pond. A good reputation in the Southeast, the West or the Middle-Atlantic Region is easily communicated and transferred to the national scene, and the archivist comes to the national society with organizational experience and the ease that comes with proper training. The archivist also comes to the national scene with a fine recognition of regional problems and a desire to use the national mechanism to help solve them.

It should be clear by now how I feel about the rise of regional archival groups, and that I feel that the groups have developed at the time in history when they were needed, and that their natural development serves the purposes of the archival profession.

There is not such a neat distinction between national and international associations as there is between regional and national. The one international organization of archivists is the International Council on Archives, the ICA. For many of the same reasons as cited earlier, the ICA is out of reach of most working archivists. The cost of travel to meetings, the high level of its deliberations, the limited number of open meetings--one every four years under normal circumstances--and the language problem, all work to limit the membership and active archival participation in the ICA. Three years from now, however, there will be an opportunity for many of you, and others around the country, to experience an ICA meeting, because the quadrennial convention scheduled for 1976 will be held in Washington. As an added incentive to U.S. and Canadian archivists, the ICA meeting will be held concurrently with the 1976 convention of the Society of American Archivists, and we hope the economy of such an arrangement, as well as an existing program, will lead to a record turnout.

There are relationships between membership in the SAA and the ICA that affect archival activity the world over. Problems of microfilm, automation, access, and other archival questions that are settled at the national level can quite often be carried up to the international level if the solutions are professional and have universal applicability. I know, for example, that through our activities in the ICA, American archivists have been able to influence the liberalization of some archival policies in other parts of the world, all for the benefit of researchers both here and abroad. I am enthusiastic about the future of our international archival relations, and I see a family of professionals developing who, while not always of one mind on controversial issues, at least has the ability to communicate differences and respect opposing opinions.

It is my belief, therefore, that each of the levels of archival association is necessary--both to the benefit of researchers and scholars, and for the full realization of improved archival practices. Each level--regional, national, and international--has its contribution to make to the improvement of archival science, and none of the three holds total suzerainty over the others. The goal of each of us as professionals should be to participate at which ever level we can contribute most and gain the greatest amount of benefit for ourselves and our constituents. I urge you all to take the professional route by joining with you peers in improving our services to scholarship through your work in your professional organizations.

Thank you. ★

Joseph W. Ernst  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
Room 5600  
New York, NY 10020



## the wandering archivist

by  
mary  
boccaccio



A Rockefeller Archives Center is in the initial planning stages for Pocantico Hills, N.Y. The Center will be the joint accomplishment of The Rockefeller Foundation, Brothers Fund and University. Offices will be in the house of the late Martha Baird Rockefeller, second wife of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. with an underground storage facility planned to house the records. Rockefeller University will own the Center which will be supervised by an 11 member governing council headed by J. George Harrar, former president of the Foundation.

The collections will include the records of Rockefeller University dating from 1901 when it was organized as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the Rockefeller Foundation dating from 1909, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the personal, philanthropic and business records of John D. Rockefeller and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. covering the years 1839-1960. The Center actively plans to collect the records of other Rockefeller-sponsored organizations and philanthropies as well as the papers of individuals who have been closely associated with these organizations and the family.

The Rockefeller Foundation recently announced that some of its record holdings are open for research.

Records which have been processed and opened include those of several Rockefeller philanthropies which were associated with the foundation. Some of these are the Bureau of Social Hygiene (1911-1940), the China Medical Board (1913-1929) the General Education Board (1902-1941), and the Spelman Fund of New York (1928-1949).

Records pre-dating 1942 are being processed and will be made available for research when processing is completed.

A pamphlet describing the collections is available from The Rockefeller Foundation Archives, 333 W. 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10019; inquiries concerning the availability of materials should be directed to J. William Hess at the above address.

Inquiries relating to the records of the Rockefellers, Sr. & Jr. should be addressed to:

Joseph W. Ernst  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
Room 5600  
New York, NY 10020

While inquiries concerning Rockefeller University should be directed to:

Mrs. Ruth Sternfeld  
The Rockefeller University  
Library - Archives  
New York, NY

The East Asia Collection of the University of Maryland, College Park, in addition to its general circulating collection of some 30,000 volumes, has a Special Collection roughly two times larger that is unique in the field of post-World War II Japanese studies. It is a large mass of newspapers, documents, monographs and periodicals in Japanese consisting of a copy of almost every item published in Japan during the period of the American Occupation, 1945-52.

During the Occupation, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) established the Civil Censorship Detachment within the intelligence operation. As part of its function to monitor Japanese publications, it required Japanese publishers to submit a copy of everything to be distributed to the public. After the end of the Occupation, Dr. Gordon Prange of the History Department of the University of Maryland convinced the U.S. Army to donate the accumulated materials to the University. This enormous collection remained in storage at the University until 1963, at which time the work of organizing it began. As of this writing, it is still a long way from being finished.

The Special Collection is arranged as follows:

- (1) Periodicals. An index of 3 x 5 cards is being prepared for the 15,000 titles, giving the title, place of publication, publisher, and holdings. This project is approximately 70% completed.
- (2) Newspapers. The same kind of index is being prepared for the 15,000 titles of newspapers. Holdings include daily and non-daily, local and national newspapers, as well as news service dispatches from Domei, Kokusai, Kyodo, Rengo, Soviet Press and others.
- (3) Monographs. Thus far approximately 18,000 volumes have been cataloged. The remaining 18,000 volumes have been arranged into broad subject categories. In addition, there are about 6,000 volumes of contemporary fiction in first editions.
- (4) Censorship Documents. This group consists of periodical articles and book manuscripts submitted for censorship by publishers. Most of them contain notes and marks of passages to be deleted or suppressed, made by the American censorship officers. In addition, there are documents generated by the censors and the censoring process describing and translating offensive passages in each item and outlining the action to be taken.
- (5) English Language Materials. This group includes miscellaneous military documents acquired from SCAP, among them the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey materials on interrogation of Japanese officials, a set of the Tokyo War Tribunal Records, various SCAP publications, Press Translations, and the memoirs of Prince Saionji. A list of the 10,049 items has been prepared.



# the mid-atlantic archivist

...still wandering

Certain kinds of materials are considered not important enough for immediate cataloging, and have been placed in storage boxes. They include books and journals on science and technology, Japanese translations of foreign works, children's books, textbooks, and miscellaneous popular publications, such as movie magazines and women's magazines.

Few, if any, of the items in the Special Collection exist anywhere else in the world, including in Japan. Certainly nowhere are they located in one place as they are at the University of Maryland

The Free Library of Philadelphia has prepared "A Preliminary Checklist of Materials on the 1876 Centennial International Exposition" in the library including a supplementary Section on the Sesquicentennial of 1926. It includes holdings of books, photographs, prints, newspapers, sheet music and musical scores. Arrangement is by library department and includes call numbers for items listed. The introduction notes that the official documents of the centennial i.e., publications of the US Centennial Commission and Centennial Board of Finance, journals of proceedings, reports, catalogues, guide books, histories, minutes, correspondence, financial records, architectural papers, specifications, costs and awards, housekeeping and employee records are available in the Philadelphia City Archives of the Department of Records.

An English edition of the Proceedings of the XIIIth International Round Table Conference on Archives (Bad Godesberg, West Germany, September 1971) will be published in mid-1974. Of special interest therein is a detailed report on "Archives and Automation" prepared by Prof. R. H. Bautier of the French Ecole des Chartes on the basis of questionnaire returns from many parts of the world. To cover publication costs it is desirable that a maximum number of orders be received. The volume will cost \$8.00 and orders should be sent to the Secretariat of the Round Table, 30 quai Henri IV, 75004 Paris, France.

The University of Maryland has been offered and its Board of Regents has accepted the official vice presidential papers of Spiro T. Agnew. Included in the gift are papers relating to the former vice president's tenure as Governor of Maryland and other personal papers. The Agnew papers will become a part of the University archives and will be deposited at the Theodore R. McKeldin Library on the College Park campus, and entrusted to the care of University Archivist Mary Boccaccio.

In accepting approximately 600 letter size boxes of the official papers, the University has agreed that they will not be available for use by the general public until January of 1977. In addition to papers, the Agnew collection contains some tapes, literature, photographs and memorabilia and deal with subjects Agnew handled during his nearly five-year term as vice president and his six years as Baltimore County executive and state governor.

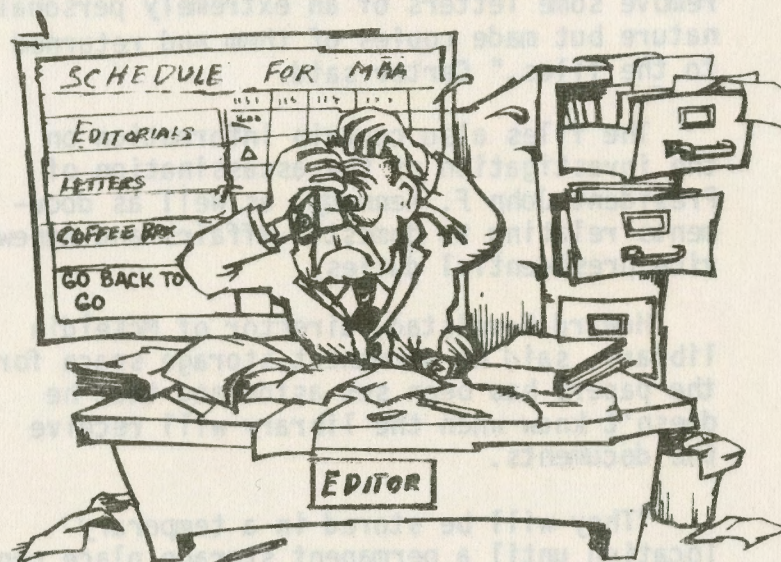
According to Virginia Carter, from University relations, Agnew donated the papers to the University "because of his close association with the state."

She said 225 boxes contain alphabetical subject files of Agnew's dealings with government agencies, public officials and other miscellaneous activities.

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WE GET LETTERS



May 6, 1974

Mr. Don Harrison  
1307 North Ode Street, #424  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your "Editorial Comment" in the April, 1974, issue of the Mid-Atlantic Archivist.

Although your reporting of the facts in the beginning of the editorial is fairly accurate (though the quotations are partially inventions of the newspaper reporter), your conclusions obviously are based on unfamiliarity with North Carolina's records program. The North Carolina program has always been in a cultural agency--The Department of Archives and History and its predecessor the North Carolina Historical Commission--and the fact that this program was for many years the largest and most comprehensive combined archival and records management program among the states of the Union effectively demolishes your contention that such a program cannot thrive in a cultural agency. Show me any state in the nation with a more effective program--effective both in the sense of preservation of materials for history and the management of records for administrative purposes, including efficiency and economy. Despite the circumstances that led to my resignation, I recognize the North Carolina program as unexcelled in any state. I believe it will continue that ranking under the direction of Thornton W. Mitchell, one of the outstanding records managers of the nation.

Most surprising, however, is your conclusion that people with "degrees in Public Administration" are "experts in how to reorganize" and therefore capable of saving us. Good Lord, man, these are the very people who have tried to bury the North Carolina program, and it is directly attributable to the victory of the public administration "experts" that the North Carolina program has been politicized and all authority

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...still wandering

"As far as we know, this is a complete set of documents including a number of personal letters. As I understand, he did remove some letters of an extremely personal nature but made copies of them and returned them to the files," Carter said.

The files also contain information on the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, as well as documents relating to domestic affairs and Agnew's vice presidential duties.

Howard Rovelstad, director of McKeldin library, said no permanent storage space for the papers has been set aside and that he doesn't know when the library will receive the documents.

"They will be stored in a temporary location until a permanent storage place can be arranged," he said, "and they will be provided all the security that such documents normally get."

The Board for Certification of Genealogists makes available through the National Genealogical Society a list of persons certified as genealogists. The list is notes specialty and persons are cross referenced by state of residence.

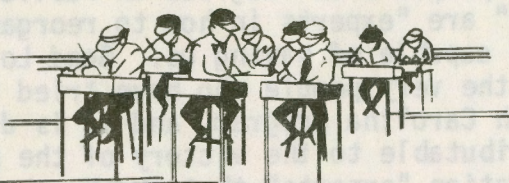
The National Genealogical Society is located at 1921 Sunderland Pl., NW, Washington, DC and welcomes members interested in history, biography and genealogy. The Society sponsors workshops twice a month October-May and maintains a library of books, magazines, pamphlets and manuscripts. In addition to the NGS Quarterly, the Society also publishes monographs and pamphlets. Further inquiries should be directed to the Society.

... from Annapolis Local Arrangements:

MARAC is scheduled to meet in Annapolis on May 9 and 10, 1975. The Maryland Inn and the Annapolis Hilton have reserved rooms for convention people. Sessions are to be held at the First Presbyterian Church, midway between the Inn and the Hilton. The local arrangements committee, chaired by Pat Vanorny, is attempting to exploit all the educational and pleasurable facilities the old town has to offer.

Phebe Jacobsen  
Hall of Records  
Annapolis, Md.

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consolidated into one nonprofessional head. These are the people who developed the "blue-print theory" of reorganization which recognizes no uniqueness among agencies and requires that professionals be raped of their authority and that it be placed instead in the hands of political appointees.

Finally, as early as 1935 North Carolina adopted a public records act which places under Archives and History control not only the records of all three branches of state government but also the records of all local governments. Your implication that the North Carolina program is effective only in the executive branch, therefore is inexplicable. You must have been thinking of some other state which does not have a comprehensive public records act.

The tragedy in North Carolina is not that the formerly independent Department of Archives and History was placed in a cultural agency but rather that the public administrators decreed that all professional authority wherever found in state government had to be eradicated. As soon as this grave error is recognized, the Division of Archives and History again will be established as a statutory entity within the Department of Cultural Resources, thus allowing professional decisions to be made by archivists and records managers rather than politicians.

I hope you will visit Raleigh and let Thornton Mitchell show you the program which, though in grave danger because of its submersion under an extra layer of bureaucracy, still holds its rank. With its fine staff, it is going to weather the storm.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

H. G. Jones



I conclude my incumbency as editor with this number. My associates in this enterprise, Julie Marsteller and Ned Berkeley, have given me advice and cooperation far out of proportion to the amount of time available to them. Abby Levine and Paul Perkus have never grumbled nor missed a deadline. The editorial board, Mary Boccaccio and Elsie Freivogel have been more like copy rewriters: cutting and pasting and correcting. It's been a great experience: I've learned a lot and I've made close and dear friends from it all. Thanks to everyone.

..... Don Harrison



# the wandering archivist

by  
mary  
boccaccio



...still wandering

Over the past year or so, several deacidification and/or lamination do-it-yourself products have come on the market and to the many collections with preservation problems, these sound like the perfect solution. While the products are rather expensive, certainly the cost is less than sending each item out to a restoration workshop. Intrigued by the ease of application with such astounding promised results, I bought small quantities of Wei To' deacidification spray, Regnal 7 P and V.P.D. (vapor phase deacidification) paper to try myself.

Regnal comes in several formulas, one just to deacidify and one just to strengthen but I chose the 7 P combination which does both since this is our basic problem. Prior to application, I tested an 1852 American newspaper, a 1798 indenture and a 1949 Japanese newspaper with an acid testing pen. All the little blue lines turned light green and yellow so presumably they were highly acid in content.

Then came the application which was more difficult than it should have been. Regnal 7 P is very thick and we did not have the recommended sprayer. After the first few sprays, the apparatus clogged and that was the end of that. For the material we were able to spray, the result was a glitter effect which will probably produce an emotional experience in some future historian. Apparently the application was uneven and the solution crystallized.

The instructions also say that you can brush it on so we tried that next. It was very unsatisfactory because the application was too thick and the result was discoloration and darkening of the items. We also discovered early on that Regnal sticks like glue to any paper substance and also soaks through paper so we had to use a nylon screen to back our samples.

Our test items dried in about 15 minutes and then we tested them again for acid. They came out neutral. In addition, the items were obviously strengthened. When the recommended sprayer arrives, we will try it again. If it produces a more even spray, the solution should prove valuable to many collections.

Next I tried Wei To' spray, which comes in handy little bottles, on similar documents. It also clogs but the company gives you several extra spray apparatus. Checking beforehand with an acid pen, the materials were highly acid. We sprayed the materials which dried very quickly. Checking again, the documents were neutral. I had visions of going through our book collection starting with the L.C. A's and ending foxing, acid transfer and general deterioration.

Wei To' comes with a very handy information booklet which tells you how to build a spray screen and to be sure to have good ventilation. I checked with a hand bookbinder who is familiar with the formula. Apparently it is excellent from a chemical standpoint but is liable to be dangerous to people if proper precautions are not taken. He suggested good ventilation, a strong exhaust fan, a charcoal filter mask, goggles, apron and gloves. Though the bookbinder admits to being possibly over precautionary, caution would be a good idea until some sort of extended use statement is available. Regnal instructions also suggest use in a well ventilated room, preferably close to an exhaust fan.

The last of the easy to use deacidification processes I tried is V.P.D., a chemically treated paper which you can use to interleave in books or stash in document boxes. We put two sheets in each box, in the front and the back. I would have considered using more to a box but it is extraordinarily expensive.

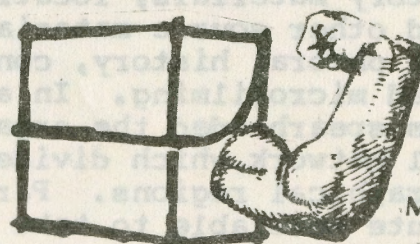
After several months exposure, paper in the box turns green after testing with an archivist's pen. The V.P.D. paper itself remains neutral. Probably we either did not use enough paper per box or the boxes were so tightly packed that the chemicals did not filter through properly. If it worked better this would probably be the safest way to deacidify. It is, however, certainly the most expensive and probably least dependable of the three methods.

Collections interested in these methods should begin to think in terms of setting up a laboratory with at least minimum types of safety precautions and equipment and a relatively stationary personnel to do the work. The methods and their ease of application are enticing and the results are most certainly beneficial but careful consideration should be given to what amounts to the establishment of new programs within a collection and their implications. ★

## SAA

JOB PLACEMENT

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY



MEETINGS

THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST  
AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS



## The Archives-Library Institute at the Ohio Historical Society

Recently I attended the two week Archives-Library Institute at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. The purpose of the Institute was to give a "balanced treatment of local, state, and national perspectives; a stress on defined program objectives and subject expertise; and an emphasis on presenting alternative procedures for many sizes and types of repositories" and was admirably met.

Utilizing the staff of the OHS and a number of outstanding guest instructors (such as Robert Lovett, Bob Warner, and Hugh Atkinson), the Institute's program was a varied one. Subjects of seminars included conservation practices, editing of newsletters and brochures, government records, urban history, audiovisual collections, arrangement and description of manuscript collections, inventories, survey projects, maps, rare books, legal aspects, field work procedures, and the list could go on. The success of these seminars was that they were both theoretical and practical. Moreover, the breadth of the subjects covered enabled one to gain introductions to unfamiliar areas and to view the tremendous diversity of needs, purposes, and procedures that characterize our profession.

Had this Institute been hosted by any organization other than the OHS, it would have undoubtedly suffered. The early growth of the OHS resembles that of many other historical agencies. Founded in 1885 the Society grew slowly. Its first expansion came with the WPA during the Depression. By 1966 only two guides to the archives-library had been published, and both were extensions to the efforts of the WPA. But since 1966 through large state and federal grants the OHS has grown extremely rapidly. In a six year period, 1966-1972, it constructed over \$20,000,000 of new buildings including the \$10,000,000 Ohio Historical Center which opened in 1970.

With a large amount of funds and increased personnel, the Society's archives-library has greatly developed. It now consists of a data archives, film-sound archives, institutional records, local government records, manuscripts, newspapers, oral history, pictures and maps division, printed materials, and state archives. The OHS has also gone a long way to establish special projects. One example is its Columbus Jewish History Project which is co-sponsored by the OHS, Columbus Jewish Federation, and Ohio State University Jewish Studies Program. This project is involved in compiling a bibliography of Jewish history materials, locating manuscripts and other source materials including an emphasis on oral history, conservation, and selected microfilming. In addition the Society has spearheaded the organization of an archival network which divides Ohio into eight geographical regions. Participants in the Institute were able to take advantage of the experiences and successes of the OHS and to learn how such a comprehensive program could be established and maintained.

For many of us, the magnitude of the OHS's work was a fairy land world. Many of those at the Institute were from small university archives or private historical agencies lacking money, staff, and space. A number of the seminars were designed for consideration of these difficulties, but perhaps even more valuable was the interaction between the Institute's participants. The Archives-Library Institute was well designed in this respect, allowing considerable free time to share and consider similar problems. Heartening indeed it was to find someone who had found the solution to the same problem you were currently experiencing. The composition of the archivists attending was varied enough so that the possibilities for such fruitful interaction were great.

All in all, my participation in the Fourth Annual Archives-Library Institute was a rewarding professional experience. Considering the paucity of courses offered in the archival profession, the Institute is certainly valuable. Now, as always, the most difficult job is to begin to apply some of the new ideas to the present reality. Nevertheless, the insights and encouragement received from the Institute are a benefit and I personally encourage those in MARAC to consider attending this program next summer.

Richard J. Cox  
Curator of Manuscripts  
Maryland Historical Society ★

The Microfilm Committee of the International Council on Archives has begun a new publication, Bulletin. Published and distributed by the Hungarian National Archives, the Bulletin regards its task as publicity of experiences, techniques and news relating to new projects and programs.

Two volumes have been published so far, 1972 and 1973. The first volume introduces the Committee summarizes its history, lists corresponding members and notes committee recommendations to the I.C.A. Articles describing microfilm programs in various countries are mainly in English, though one is in Spanish and another in French. Abstracts are in French, English, Spanish and German and there is no note as to preference of language for manuscripts submitted.

The articles themselves are brief and informative, written as a first announcement of programs to get researchers headed in an appropriate direction. "Archival Microfilming in India" for example runs for three pages, notes the establishment of the Indian Historical records Commission in 1919, activities from 1950 on, laboratory expansion and some of the practical problems involved with equipment and supplies, a five year plan, collection scope and the interest of the State Archives. Though brief, the article is more than ample as a "state of the program" introduction.

continued on page 12...



	Western Room	Penn Central "A"	Penn Central "B"	Penn Central "C"	FRIDAY
9:45- 10:45	Welcome to newcomers: orientation for beginners.	Special techniques in preservation. Choice of techniques by speaker.	<u>ORAL HISTORY</u>  Definitions, who should collect what?		
11:00- 12:00	Basic Presentation	Preparation of collec- tions for microfilm publication.	Oral History techniques: recording, preserving, presenting, etc. panel		
12:15- 1:30	LUNCHEON PROGRAM:				
1:45- 2:45	Processing Mss. Collections	Building and renovat- ing archives.	Ethics of accession: Buying papers, \$ appraisals, deposits & terms.	Appraisal & disposition of archives	
3:00- 4:00	Paper conservation at NJHS conservator's lab.	Finding aids for mss. & archives.	Publicizing new collections.	Acquiring manu- scripts for money.	
4:30- 6:00	Business meeting at New Jersey Historical Society				
6:00- 6:30	Tour of New Jersey Historical Society				
6:30- 7:30	Cash Bar at New Jersey Historical Society				
11-2 a.m.	Midnight walking tour of Newark!				

	Western Room	Penn Central "A"	Penn Central "B"	Penn Central "C"	<u>SATURDAY</u>
9:30- 10:30	Processing Archives	Access to records - Institutional	ROLE DEFINITION  A) Bureaucratic restraints on individual development and initiative. B) Can you stay close to the records and advance in the profession? C) Should there be a distinction between professional and non-professional?  Panel		Machine readable records
10:45- 11:45	Preparing finding aids and caring for:	Access to records - ACLU Doug Tanner, U. Va., moderator	(2 hours)		Moving image
12:00- 1:15	LUNCHEON PROGRAM:				
1:30- 2:30		Legal aspects of photocopy	Organizing a state- wide mss. conference		
2:45- end of confer- ence	Church Archives	OPEN ↓ Business Archives	DISCUSSION ↓ Small Historical Societies.	GROUPS ↓ College and University	Government Records



# the mid-atlantic archivist

september 1974

## GATEWAY DOWNTOWNER



...from page 10

A second section considers technique. For example, the 1972 volume gives a short description of how to build a book cradle and lists supplies for materials not readily available. A marked drawing enhances the description considerably. Other articles in this section describe salvaging and restoration techniques and microfilm blemishes.

In the 1973 volume the techniques section increased in size ranging from microfiche to microbiodeterioration to reader specifications that include consumer needs.

Full of suggestions that are practical, information and experiences of systems, the Bulletin is a welcomed addition in print.



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PENNSYLVANIA  
STATION

MCCARTER  
HIGHWAY

Resolved that the Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference commends Mary Walton Livingston, Office of Presidential Libraries, National Archives & Records Service, for her recent action with respect to the vice-presidential papers of Richard Nixon. Her refusal to collude in falsifying information concerning these papers, and her active awareness of the ethics of donations, is in the best tradition, and the best interest, of the archival profession. Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Ms. Livingston; Daniel Reed, Director, Office of Presidential Libraries; and James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States.

Adopted April 27, 1974  
Charlottesville, Virginia